

*To the Secretary of State:*

House bill No. 275, entitled "An Act to amend Section 26, Chapter 5, General Laws of the State of Texas, passed at the First Called Session of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Texas, approved June 26, 1897, fixing certain civil fees to be charged by certain county and precinct officers," is herewith transmitted, disapproved.

The effect of the bill under consideration, should it become law, would be to restore the fees of tax collectors, tax assessors, county and district clerks, sheriffs and justices of the peace in civil cases in one hundred and eighty-five counties, whose voting population was less than three thousand at the last election for President of the United States, to the amounts allowed them prior to the enactment of Chapter 5 by the Twenty-fifth Legislature, at its called session, approved June 16, 1897.

The history of this legislation is familiar to the country, and the reform therein accomplished in the matter of official fees was secured only after a long and determined effort, supported by the platform pledge of the dominant party in this State.

There can be no reasonable objection to an amendment of the Act of June 16, 1897, in those particulars where experience has shown them to be detrimental to the public service. It is believed, however, that the bill under consideration is too radical and comprehensive. Under the guise of amendment it is repealing in its character and effect, rather than remedial as to specific defects in existing law, and being such, the policy moving its passage may be properly regarded as reactionary.

JOSEPH D. SAYERS,  
Governor.

April 26, 1901.